Komi Can't Communicate

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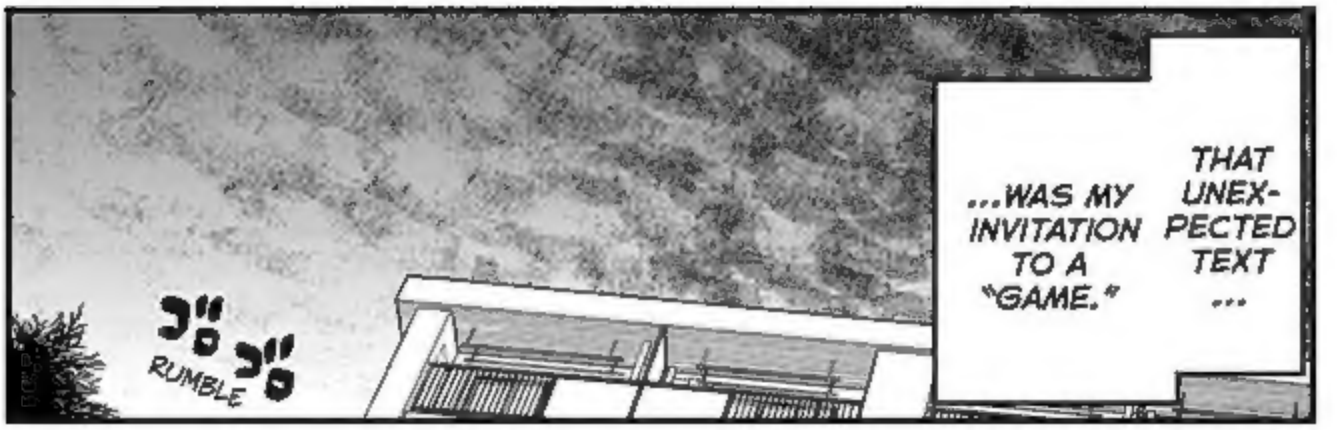
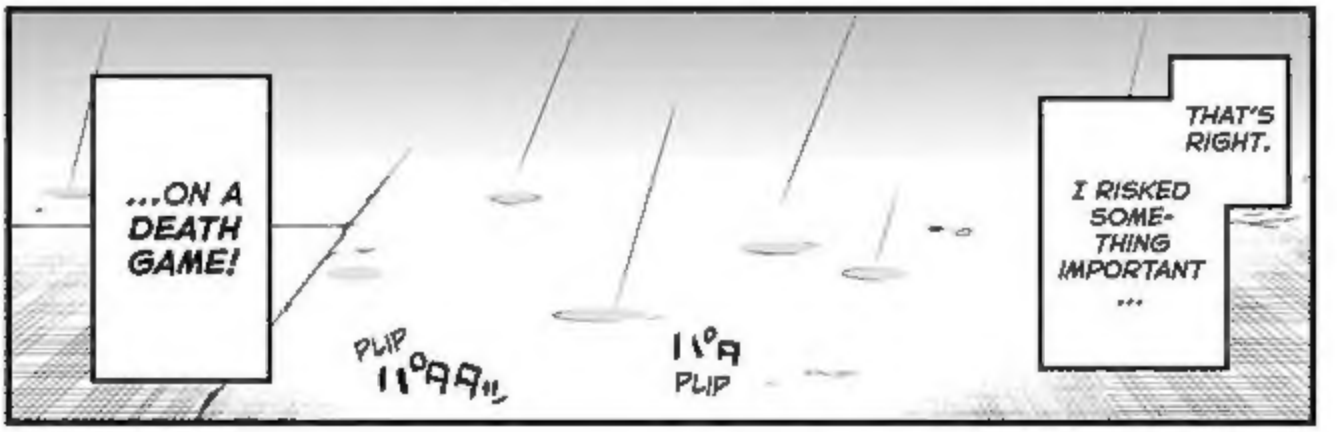




Komi Can't Communicate

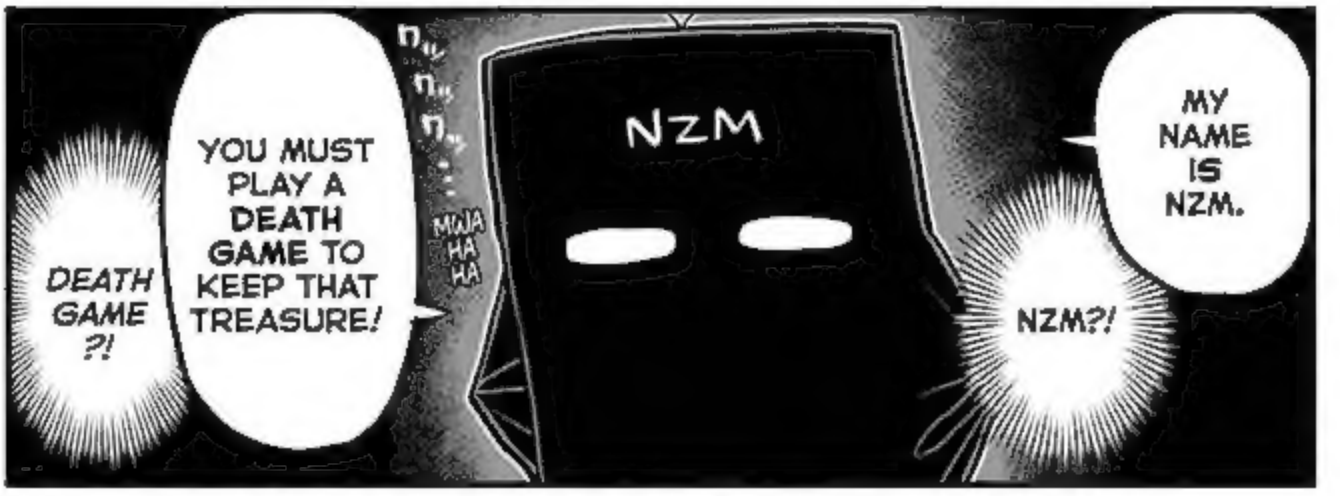
Communication 394: Riverside Death Game

IT WAS SPRINKLING EARLIER, BUT NOW IT'S SUNNY!
?!
FOAH!
EASY GO DANCE
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THIS ACTIVITY HOSTED BY THE RIVERSIDE DIRTY MAG HUNTERS CLUB!
PADUH

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED ?!
WHAT ?!
PWAH
ペアア...
I'M A CLUB MEMBER?!
YOU'RE A CLUB MEMBER WITH LOW ATTENDANCE, SO WE GOT WORRIED...
He insists.
WELL, I'M NOT!!!
PSST
PSST
PSST
...THAT YOU'RE IMPOTENT.
HA HA HA! YOU'RE SO HUMBLE!
I'LL GO. BUT I DON'T NEED TO!
For a change of pace!
NOW LET'S LOOK FOR DIRTY MAGS!
JOKES ASIDE, THANK YOU FOR COMING. WE KNOW YOU MUST BE BUSY STUDYING FOR EXAMS.

*See volume 14!
THIS AGAIN?!
SWIP
THERE'S ONE! A GOOD STICK.
Tell us about it!
Ah ha ha!
HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOTTEN WITH KOMI?
First base? Second?
?!
!!
SHH!

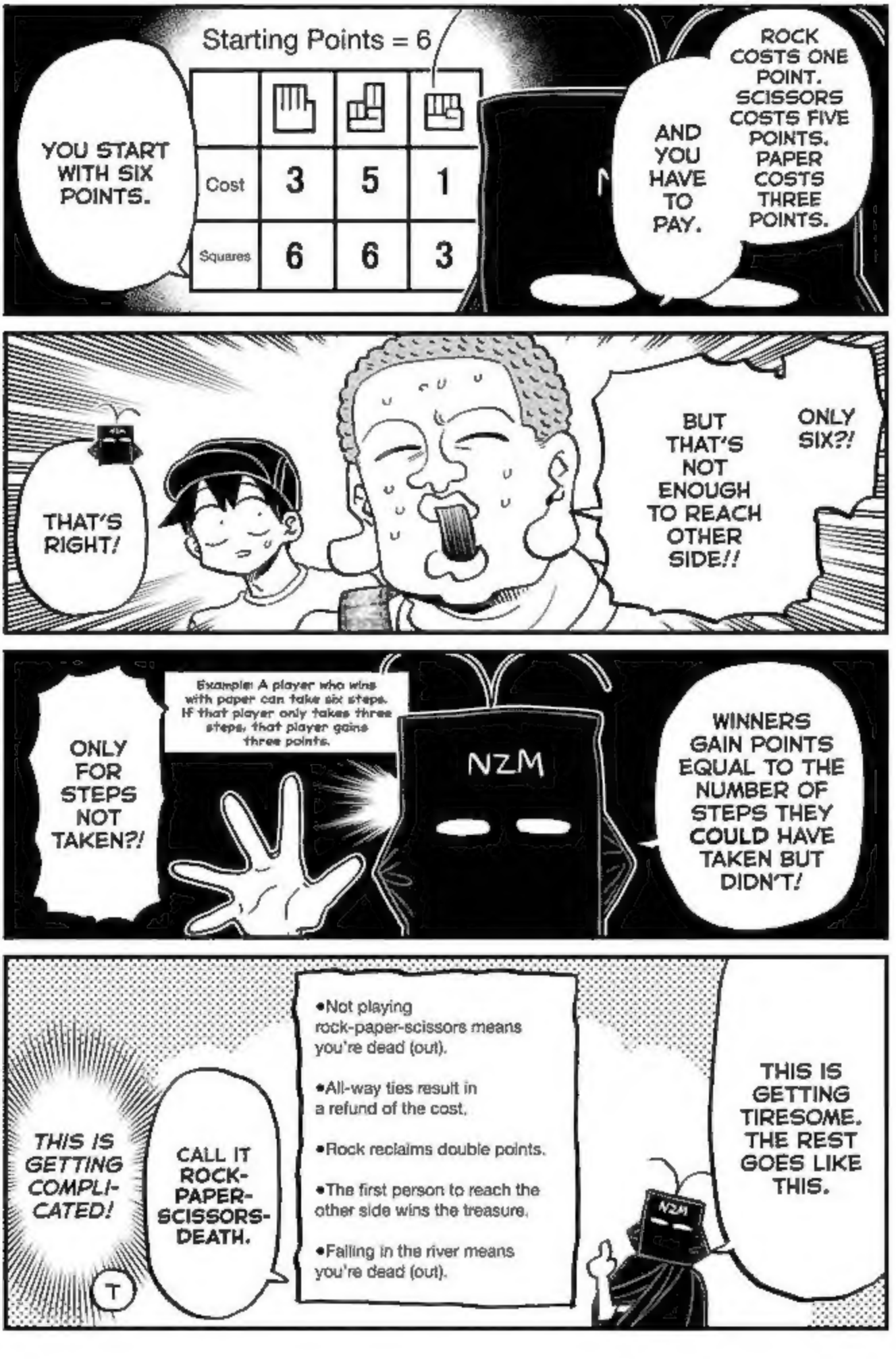
THE WHAT?!
I HEAR THE PULSE OF A DIRTY MAG.
HOW DID YOU SEE THAT?!
YES!
RIGHT!
TA-DA!
AHA!
OVER THERE!
ON THE FAR SHORE!
!!
MWA HA HA...
LET'S GO GET IT!
EASY DO
?!
MWJA HA HA
N2M
MWA...
MWA...
MWA HA HA!
MWA HA HA HA HA!

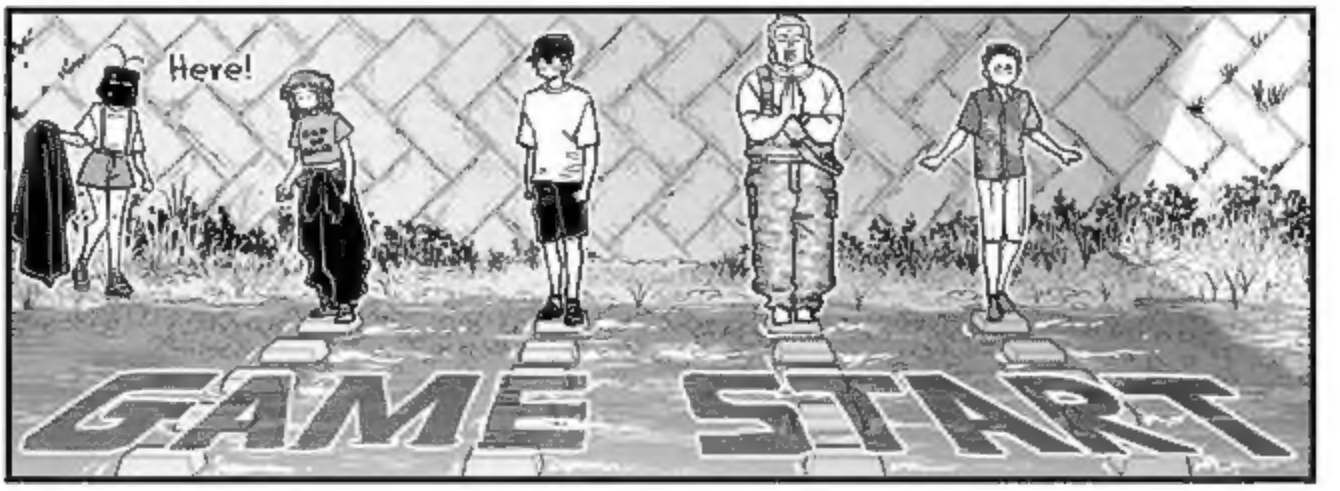

MY NAME IS NZM.
NZM
NZM?!
MUHAHAHA
YOU MUST PLAY A DEATH GAME TO KEEP THAT TREASURE!
DEATH GAME ?!

I'LL EXPLAIN THE RULES.
YOU PLAY ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS. IF YOU WIN WITH ROCK, YOU ADVANCE THREE. IF YOU WIN WITH SCISSORS, YOU ADVANCE SIX.
A WIN WITH PAPER IS ALSO SIX.

THERE ARE 10 STEPPING STONES SPANNING THE RIVER. YOU JUST HAVE TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE.
!!

TH-THAT'S EASY!
HOWEVER, EACH MOVE ALSO HAS A COST.
!


Starting Points = 6
YOU START WITH SIX POINTS.
Cost
3
5
1
Squares
6
6
3
ROCK COSTS ONE POINT. SCISSORS COSTS FIVE POINTS. PAPER COSTS THREE POINTS.
AND YOU HAVE TO PAY.
THAT'S RIGHT!
ONLY SIX?!
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO REACH OTHER SIDE!!
ONLY FOR STEPS NOT TAKEN?!
Example: A player who wins with paper can take six steps. If that player only takes three steps, that player gains three points.
NZM
WINNERS GAIN POINTS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF STEPS THEY COULD HAVE TAKEN BUT DIDN'T!
THIS IS GETTING COMPLI-CATED!
CALL IT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS-DEATH.
•Not playing rock-paper-scissors means you're dead (out).
•All-way ties result in a refund of the cost.
•Rock reclaims double points.
•The first person to reach the other side wins the treasure.
•Falling in the river means you're dead (out).
THIS IS GETTING TIRESOME. THE REST GOES LIKE THIS.
NZM


Here!
GAME START

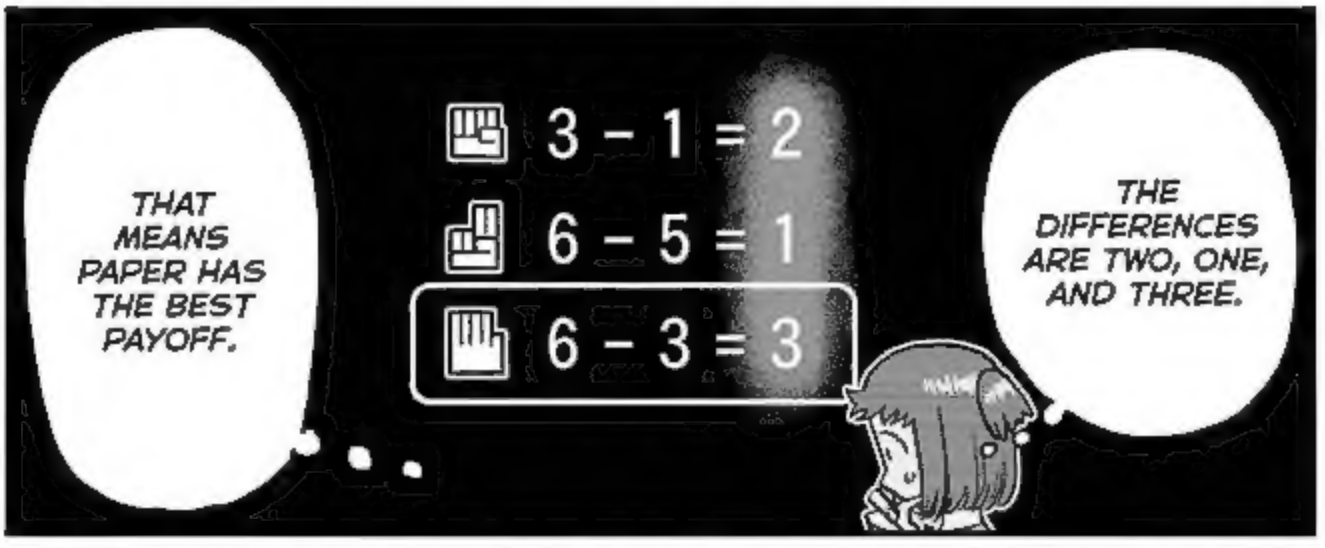
W-WHY'RE WE DOING THIS?
I DON'T WANNA DIE...
WE DO IT FOR THE DIRTY MAG.
!
EASY DO TIME

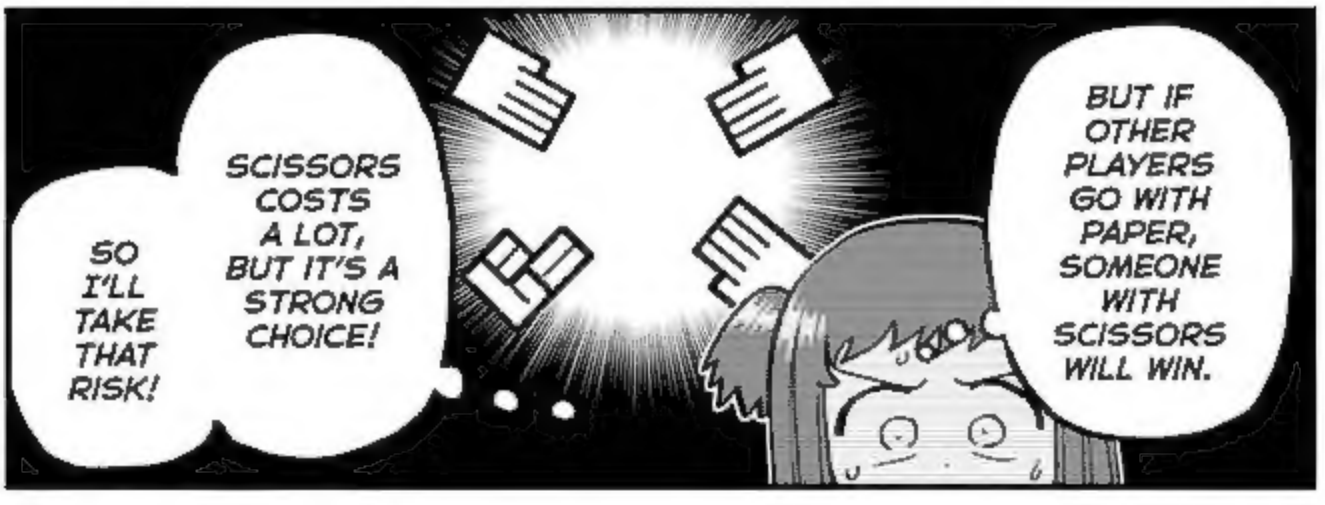
IT'S A FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR A DIRTY MAG!
!!

HEY, NA-JIMI?
NZM.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS?
All
CUZ COMING UP WITH THE RULES WAS HARD.
THAT'S WHY?!

THINK THIS THROUGH!
Shuki Ohai
Progress: 0/10
Points: 6

Starting Points = 6
Cost
3
5
1
Squares
6
6
3
ROCK COSTS ONE. SCISSORS COSTS FIVE. PAPER COSTS THREE.
ROCK ADVANCES THREE. SCISSORS AND PAPER ADVANCE SIX.

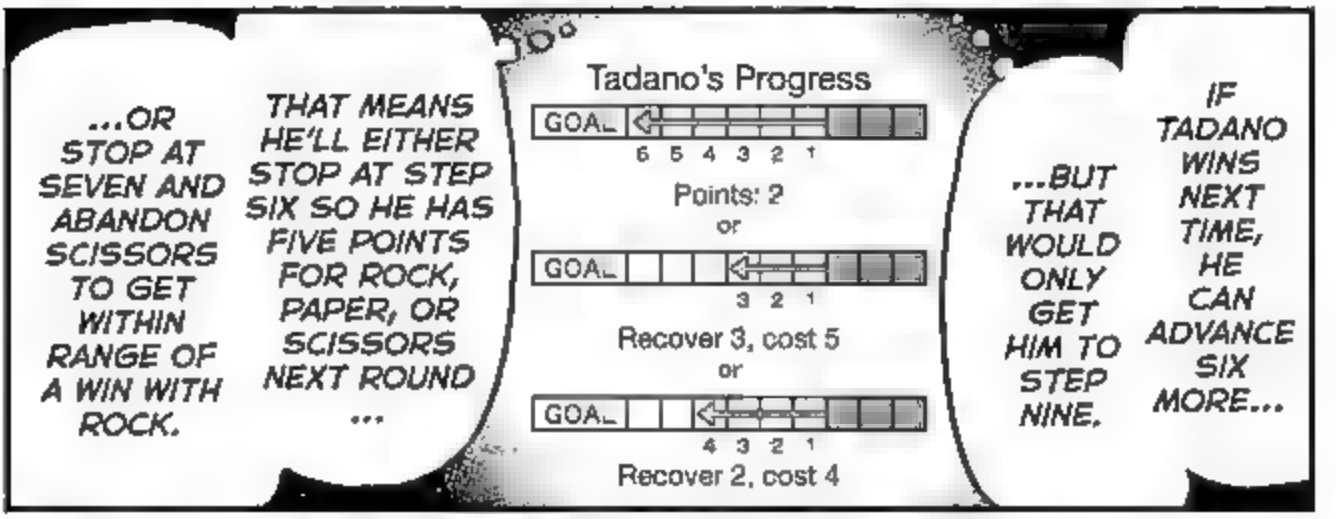

3 - 1 = 2
6 - 5 = 1
6 - 3 = 3
THAT MEANS PAPER HAS THE BEST PAYOFF.
THE DIFFERENCES ARE TWO, ONE, AND THREE.

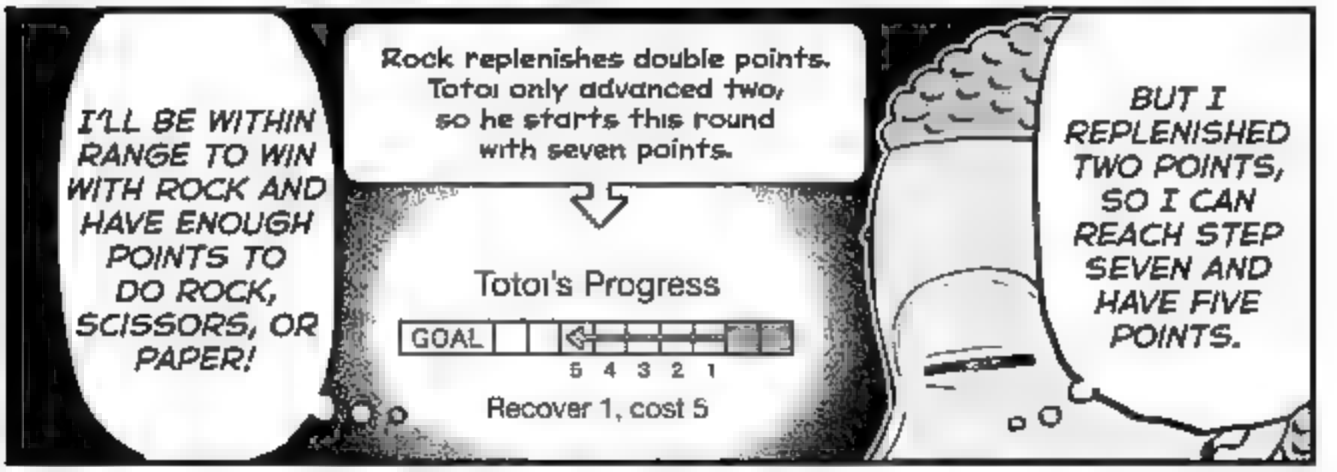

SO I'LL TAKE THAT RISK!
SCISSORS COSTS A LOT, BUT IT'S A STRONG CHOICE!
BUT IF OTHER PLAYERS GO WITH PAPER, SOMEONE WITH SCISSORS WILL WIN.

THAT IS MERELY THE FIRST STAGE OF ANALYSIS.
IT ASSUMES THAT NO ONE WILL DO ROCK.
ROCK COSTS LITTLE BUT FOR LITTLE PAYOFF, AND IT ONLY BEATS SCISSORS, WHICH IS EXPENSIVE.
PAPER IS UNLIKELY TO WIN THIS!
Natsu Fukusuki
Progress: 0/10
Points: 6
THUS, EVERY-ONE WILL DO SCIS-SORS!
WHICH IS WHAT ANYONE WOULD EXPECT!
SO I'LL DO ROCK!
BUT I SEE BEYOND THAT, AND WILL DO PAPER!
BUT I SEE EVEN FURTHER !!
SO I GO HIGH COST WITH SCIS-SORS!
WHICH IS THE SECOND STAGE OF ANALY-SIS.
FUKUSUKI WILL SPIN IN CIRCLES UNTIL DECIDING ON THE HIGH-COST OPTION OF SCISSORS.
SO I'LL GO WITH ROCK.
Son Totoi
Progress: 0/10
Points: 6
ROCK IS CHEAP. I'LL START WITH THAT.
Hitohito Tadano
Progress: 0/10
Points: 6

AAAAAGH!!
ONE, TWO, THREE!
Tadano: 3 forward, 5 points.
Totoi: 2 forward, 7 points.
Ohai, Fukusuki: 1 point
FAST DO DANCE
MUAHAHAHA
*That's all they can do with one point.
...SO TADANO AND I WILL BOTH DO PAPER.
NEXT TIME, OHAI AND FUKUSUKI HAVE TO DO ROCK...

Totoi: 2 forward, 7 points.
REMEMBER, I ONLY ADVANCED TWO STEPS.


...OR STOP AT SEVEN AND ABANDON SCISSORS TO GET WITHIN RANGE OF A WIN WITH ROCK.
THAT MEANS HE'LL EITHER STOP AT STEP SIX SO HE HAS FIVE POINTS FOR ROCK, PAPER, OR SCISSORS NEXT ROUND ...
Tadano's Progress
GOAL
6 5 4 3 2 1
Points: 2
or
GOAL
3 2 1
Recover 3, cost 5
or
GOAL
4 3 2 1
Recover 2, cost 4
...BUT THAT WOULD ONLY GET HIM TO STEP NINE.
IF TADANO WINS NEXT TIME, HE CAN ADVANCE SIX MORE...


I'LL BE WITHIN RANGE TO WIN WITH ROCK AND HAVE ENOUGH POINTS TO DO ROCK, SCISSORS, OR PAPER!
Rock replenishes double points. Totoi only advanced two, so he starts this round with seven points.
Totoi's Progress
GOAL
5 4 3 2 1
Recover 1, cost 5
BUT I REPLENISHED TWO POINTS, SO I CAN REACH STEP SEVEN AND HAVE FIVE POINTS.

Totoi isn't that holy...
...TADA-NO!!
GNOO
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE DIRTY MAG IS MINE!

?!
PLOSH
I WANTED TO GO OUT ON MY OWN TERMS!
PUSH
WE WERE CERTAIN TO LOSE NEXT ROUND.
WHY, FUKU-SUKI?!
?!
*Faking getting shot.
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
*Not really.
GASP
Natsu Fukusuki: deceased

N...
NEXT ROUND.
HE MADE A HOLY SACRIFICE FOR THE DIRTY MAG.
NO...
AM I...
... GONNA DO THAT TOO?
THAT'S WHAT WORRIES YOU?!
!
C'MON! ONE, TWO...
WHY WAIT?! OHAI HAS TO DO ROCK!
... THREE!

?!
TADANO WINS WITH SCISSORS.
Commentator
BLAM!
UNGH!
EAT 300 RAICE
OHAI IS DISQUALIFIED.
*Performing.
W-WAIT! OHAI DIDN'T DO ROCK!
DID SHE DO THAT ON PURPOSE?!
*Not playing rock-paper-scissors means you're dead (out).
*All-way ties result in a refund of the cost.
*Rock reclaims double points.
*The first person to reach the other side wins the treasure.
*Falling in the river means you're dead (out).
!!!
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY-THING!!!
THERE'S A LOOPHOLE IN THE RULES!!!

!
TADANO WINS WITH SCISSORS AND MAY ADVANCE SIX.
HOP
Didn't even realize Ohai could only do rock
DID HE SEE THIS FAR AHEAD?!
MEANWHILE, I'M ON THE SECOND STONE WITH ONLY FOUR POINTS, SO I CAN'T DO SCISSORS!
IF TADANO ADVANCES ONE STEP, SCISSORS AND PAPER GET HIM WITHIN RANGE OF THE GOAL WITH FIVE POINTS!
...
...!
GIVE UP
URGH ...
SPLASH
TOTO!?
YOU MAY HAVE THE DIRTY MAG. (ENLIGHTEN-MENT)

Harenchi Restaurant
TADANO WINS THE TREASURE!
CORPSES
死屍累々
UM, GUYS?
!!
WE CAN ALL SHARE IT.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
B-BUT WE WERE RIVALS!
WE TRIED TO DEFEAT YOU!!
I DON'T MIND.
TADANO...
YOU LEAD A BLESSED EXISTENCE!!!
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND ANYWAY. YOU THREE CAN HAVE IT.

To be continued!